22 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 22 July 1959

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gates, Mr. Gray

Mr. Harr, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Saccio,

Mr. Scribner, Mr. Smith

1. Proposed Guide Lines Re Jackson Investigation

Mr. Gray commented on the proposed guide lines which have been worked out to govern the way in which Executive Branch personnel will give information in connection with the study contemplated by Senator Jackson in implementation of Senate Resolution 115. (Copies of the guide lines and of a letter from the President to Senator Jackson had previously been distributed to the Board members.)

Mr. Gray made it clear that the President had said that officials of the Executive Branch could give testimony as to procedures followed by the National Security Council and its subordinate machinery, but that they would not be authorized to discuss the substance of debates; this latter restriction will apply to such questions as what topics were or were not discussed and decisions made or advice given by the NSC. In the President's view this information is to be considered as privileged, and it is within the prerogative of the Executive to keep it so. The President had indicated that he would not compromise on this particular issue.

It was also pointed out that the guide lines are intended to cover not only present but former Government officials.

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3. Caribbean

Discussion then turned to several situations in the Caribbean area. These included the status of Peron and Batista in the Dominican Republic and the possibility of one or both leaving that sanctuary. There was also mention of an interview that Raul Castro had had with a visiting delegation of Chinese Communist journalists, in which he had praised the Communist regime and had compared Chiang Kai-shek to Batista.

4. Great White Fleet.

The Board then discussed the proposal for establishing a "Great White Fleet," which was outlined in the 27 July issue of Life magazine, of which Mr. Dulles had an advance copy. Some members, particularly Mr. Gates, expressed approval of this idea. On the other hand, the DCI said that he had some basic doubts of the feasibility of the project, raising among other drawbacks the cost, the fact that local medical officials might not be overly enthusiastic, and the difficulty of spreading the activities of such an organization evenly during periods between disasters such as floods and pestilence.

There was also some discussion, with no particular conclusion, as to the possibility of achieving closer coordination between the projects "Hope" and "Medico."

5. Ethiopia

The Board agreed that the situation in Ethiopia requires very careful consideration, in the light of Emperor Haile Selassie's acceptance of very large Soviet and Czech credits. Mr. Murphy said that the State Department was giving this matter very careful thought.

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ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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